

# Human Relations News

from the

Newark Group Relations Mayor's Commission  
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## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

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A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

July 1960

### Al Mark Elected Comm. Head L. Holman Vice Chairman

Alexander Mark, of 13 Stecher Street, Newark, was elected Chairman of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations in a balloting which took place in early July. Mark has been a Commissioner since 1955 and is now serving a second appointment under Mayor Leo P. Carlin. He is a graduate of South Side High School and the University of North Carolina. He is presently superintendent of training for the Newark, New Jersey Postal District. His other activities include service in the European theater of operations during World War



Alexander Mark

II as a Second Lieutenant in the Medical Administration Corps. He is currently serving as Captain in the U. S. Army

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### LOCAL CITIZENS AROUSED BY TV's "CRISIS IN THE SOUTH" - UNITE TO ORGANIZE ALLIANCE FOR INTEGRATION AND DIGNITY

It very often happens that one singular incident or event can bring about a chain reaction which results in some kind of noteworthy, historic response. A case in point, here in Newark, is a special television show and the formation of the Greater Newark Alliance for Integration and Dignity, known as AID.

Late in March many citizens in this area saw the David Susskind program, "Open End", which featured a 2½ hour discussion on "Crisis in the South". Participants included Rev. Martin L. King, James McBride Dobbs, James Kilpatrick, Leonard Holt and Ulysses S. Grant III. Even during the telecast many people responded very strongly to the intellectual and emotional appeal of this program. This response led several to think and say, "What can I do to help the cause of freedom and equality?" "What can the community do?" These questions and others, repeated during several telephone calls led to a meeting on the very next night to seek some answers. This meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Irving Rosenberg, a local community leader, who started this chain reaction.

The individuals who attended this informal meeting suggested that a second meeting be called to which many local organizations, civic, community, religious, labor, social, etc., would be invited to continue these exploratory discussions. 140 organizational representatives responded and gave birth to the Alliance for Integration and Dignity.

The statement of purpose and policy of this organization reads:

"To support the widespread non-violent Southern demonstrations, expressing positive affirmation of the right to live in human dignity as guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, many organizations and individuals of the Greater Newark area have assembled and organized a continuing group to AID their struggle. It is our purpose to mobilize AID for the embattled students, the right to vote, the legal defense of Martin Luther King, and the continuing struggle for Freedom in the South.

"The Greater Newark Alliance for Integration and Dignity will demonstrate moral support and will render material AID so urgently needed by those who are taking the risks, facing jail and even death, by organizing and conducting a community-wide meeting on May 22, 1960, as its first activity, and such other activities as the organization shall decide."

This open, public meeting featured a brief address by Bernard Lee, one of the students expelled from school because of his participation in a sit-in demonstration and the debut of a dramatic reading entitled, "Sit Down for Freedom", written by Lorraine Hansbury and Ossie Davis. This was performed by Ruby Dee, John Randolph, Sarah Cunningham and Mr. Davis, all Broadway stars. Musical selections were

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## Scholarships Awarded for Human Relations Workshops

Daniel S. Anthony, Director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, announced the award of scholarship grants to the Human Relations Workshops held at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The 1960 recipients are: Mrs. Margaret Moore, Social Case Worker, Newark Department of Public Welfare; Mrs. Elouise Laster, Newark Department of Public Buildings and community leader; Mrs. Emma Pitts, Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council; Rev. Kim Jefferson, Trinity Methodist Church; Mr. Haywood Miller, teacher, Robert Treat Jr. High School; and Mr. John Cahill, member of the Mayor's Commission.

The Rutgers Workshops, Community Leadership in Intergroup Relations, July 17-23, and the advanced Modern Trends in Intergroup Relations, July 24-30, are co-sponsored by the State Division Against Discrimination, National Conference of Christians and Jews and Rutgers University.

The Community Leadership Workshop is designed for those "persons who wish to improve their understanding of the problems confronting their communities in intergroup relations and to learn up-to-date techniques useful to their solution".

The Modern Trends Workshop is an advanced course designed for those who have had previous workshop experience

## 140 To Attend Brotherhood Youth Camp

After many months of meetings and planning sessions an acorn of a suggestion has come full bloom: New Jersey will have its first Brotherhood Youth Camp. This is a program sponsored by the New Jersey Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for young people of high school age. The Camp will be held at Stokes State Forest, Lake Wapalanne, Branchville, N. J., August 28-September 2, 1960.

or extensive work in human relations in the community.

Walter D. Chambers, Asst. Director of the Commission, also announced the award of a scholarship to Miss Susan Lippman, 179 Leslie St., Newark, to attend the Encampment for Citizenship, a six-week summer camp-institute designed for young adults. The Encampment includes young people from many parts of the country and abroad, and from many varied economic, social, racial and religious groups. The program of lectures, discussion groups and field trips explores the major problems of our time: international affairs, economics, civil rights, human relations and practical techniques for citizen action in government and community affairs. The 1960 Encampment for Citizenship is being held on the Fieldston School Campus, Riverdale, New York, June 26 to August 6.

The suggestion for such a Youth Camp in New Jersey came from a group of 70 students who, last summer, participated in a similar Camp sponsored by the Manhattan-West Chester Regional office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. This Camp is in its 15th year. The favorable response and enthusiasm of these alumni led to the probing suggestion, "why not have a Camp in New Jersey so that more students from this State and perhaps other areas might attend"? This put the wheels of inquiry in motion and led Howard Devaney, Regional Director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews on a merry chase to bring back a positive answer. This was accomplished and the idea to have a Camp became a reality in November of last year.

### Students Set Program

The Camp alumni elected a Steering Committee, comprised of students from various areas, who met with the adult staff members to help plan this New Jersey Camp, utilizing the suggestions and recommendations of all the students. This Committee met monthly to work on the program, particularly the topics and areas of concern which they wanted to have covered. All reports from the Steering Committee were submitted to the alumni group, for their comments and approval. The final program and schedule they submitted was approved unanimously.

The goals and purposes of this program are to give young people an opportunity to learn to know and work with other young people of varied backgrounds; find out what other teenagers are doing to build better human relations in their schools and neighborhoods; meet and talk with key educators, clergymen and community leaders; discuss crucial human relations issues of concern in school and community; and make plans for year-round youth activities sponsored by their schools and organizations and by the NCCJ offices.

As discussions on this Camp began to circulate during these early planning stages, interest was stimulated to the point that not only were New Jersey students interested, but others from all over the Northeast. The participants at this Camp will be comprised of 140 high

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Director Daniel S. Anthony, left, presents the 1960 scholarship awards of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations for the Human Relations Workshops at Rutgers University to Haywood Miller, Mrs. Margaret Moore, Mrs. Elouise Laster, Rev. Kim Jefferson. Scholarship recipients not shown in the picture are: Mrs. Emma Pitts and John Cahill.

## Asst. Director at Police-Community Relations Institute

BY WALTER CHAMBERS, Asst. Director

During the week of June 12-17, it was my pleasure to participate in the Third Annual Police-Community Relations Institute at St. John's College at Annapolis, Maryland. I say pleasure, for while this was an Institute and a work situation, it was the kind of experience which gave one the fullest intellectual satisfaction. This seemed to be the unanimous opinion of each participant at the conclusion of this 5-day experience.

This Police-Community Relations Institute was sponsored by the Northeastern Division of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and St. John's College in cooperation with some 20 other agencies and organizations in the Northeast. The Institute is an outgrowth of the national Institute which has been sponsored annually since 1955 at Michigan State University with the support and aid of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The programs of these Institutes are designed to get down to the basic principles of police-community relations in lectures, work groups, field trips, informal discussions and exchanges of actual experience. Usually several persons from one community are selected to participate so that they might act as a team in applying their newly-learned techniques and policies to improve police-community cooperation.

### The Institute Participants and Program

The Third Annual Institute comprised 100 participants, 85 police and 15 community workers representing 11 states in addition to a resident staff of National Conference of Christians and Jews personnel and community leaders. The Special Staff consisted of a long list of outstanding speakers, consultants and resource persons who spent a day or two at the Institute. The participants were policemen, ranging in rank from patrolman to Commissioner and community workers who represented governmental agencies as well as local, grass-root organizations.

The usual pattern for an Institute daily program was followed: a principal speaker, workshop sessions, an open question and answer period, a panel discussion and of course, ample op-

portunity for informal, "over-the-coffee-cup" discussions. The subjects which were covered included such topics as, "An Interprofessional Approach to Community Problems", "What Makes Us Act Like People", "The Roles of Police and Press in Creating an Acceptance of Law and Order" and "The Religious Foundation of the Ordered Society". The panel discussions were on local projects of developing and improving police-community relations.

All of these sessions were outstanding but if I were asked to select the one which should get top billing, my choice would be the one on "Constitutional Safeguards and Police Protection", an address delivered by Dr. Harold A. Lett, Associate Director, Southeastern Division, National Conference of Christians and Jews and former Assistant Director of the New Jersey Division Against Discrimination. This speech, more than any other, reached the bedrock of police-community relations, in particular, the police and minority groups. Dr. Lett's talk evoked much discussion in the workshop groups relating to the special problems of police and minority groups, minority group behavior and pressure groups and ways and means of improving this relationship.

### A Personal Reaction and Evaluation

The sum total of this discussion and the others during the week led me to conclude that there is a great need for closer contact between the general community, the man on the street and his leaders, local police departments, and the patrolman on the beat as well as his superior officers. When there has been a sincere effort made to create a greater understanding of the special problems and difficulties faced by each group, their aims and goals and ways and means of achieving these, perhaps many of the myths about the police and minorities can be dispelled. The common problem seems to be, who should make the first step to bridge the gap?

When departing from historic St. John's College and Annapolis, it seemed that we were like General George Washington when he passed victoriously through that City on his way home to retirement. We, too, were returning to our respective cities after gaining a major victory in the campaign for making the kind of communities in which all citizens live in peace and harmony.

## Commission Elects Officers

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Reserve, 741 Army Postal Unit. This past June he completed a term as first vice president of the New Jersey Chapter, American Society of Training Directors. He is vice president in the Council of Organizations of the American Jewish Congress. He is a member of the Co-Adjutant Staff, Extension Division, Institute of Management and Labor, Rutgers—The State University.



Leonard Holman

Leonard Holman, one of Mayor Carlin's most recent appointees to the Commission is serving a 4 year term and was elected Vice-Chairman in the recent balloting. Holman is past president of the Central Newark Community Council and treasurer of the Associated Councils of Newark. He is a member of the Youth Division of the downtown branch of the YM-YWCA Education Committee, chairman of the 18th Avenue & West Kinney Jr. High School PTA's; a member of the executive board of Fuld Neighborhood House and corresponding secretary of the Central Newark Community Council. Mr. Holman operates a rug and upholstery business at 131 Rose Street in Newark and also lives at this address.

However, unlike Washington, we were returning home to begin, not to end our jobs.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews and all concerned with sponsoring this Institute are to be congratulated for a truly outstanding program.

## WHAT IS PREJUDICE?

Hardly a week or month passes by that at least one of the country's leading magazines does not have an article on intergroup relations. The fact that this is the Number One issue in America today, leads to this consistent literary interest. One of the best in this deluge of articles appeared in the May 24, 1960 issue of LOOK magazine entitled, "What is Prejudice", by Dr. Marie Jahoda.

The article is a series of answers to questions relating to prejudice, its causes and effects, which were asked of Dr. Jahoda by the editors of LOOK. Her direct, forthright comment gives the layman a clear understanding of what a social scientist knows about prejudice.

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations feels that this important article should be shared with our readers. In this and succeeding issues of Human Relations News we will reprint portions of the article until completed.

### "What is prejudice?"

"Prejudice" can mean different things to different people. By prejudice, I mean a hostile attitude toward a whole group of people, or toward one person simply because he is a member of that group.

The Americans who bear the greatest brunt of hostility today are Negroes. But at different times in our history, different groups were hated, and in different parts of our country today, Catholics, Orientals, Mexicans, Jews, Puerto Ricans—yes, even native white Protestants—get their share of prejudice too.

### Is prejudice instinctive?

No. Prejudice is never found in children who have not been exposed to it. Every psychological and sociological study shows that prejudice, like any social attitude, is learned.

### Isn't every human being a little prejudiced?

No. Quite a number of people tested are fairly free of prejudice against other groups or persons. Estimates for the United States vary from 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the adult population. My guess is that the true figure is nearer 10 per cent than 15.

### How are prejudices learned?

They are learned at an early age—though rarely before four. Prejudices

are taken over by children from their parents or playmates (who get them from their parents or playmates) in much the same way that other attitudes are taken over—that is, as if they were solid information about the world. Children who hear disparaging remarks made about a race or religion have no reason—and imperfect equipment—to disagree.

### Does this mean that prejudice is a form of conformity?

Generally, yes. Most of us have a strong need to go along with the views of people we like. To feel in agreement with others gives us a sense of belonging, of being accepted. We all like to be liked.

It takes great independence, toughness of character and conviction to dissociate ourselves from the opinions of those whose affection we need and whose esteem we cherish. It is much easier to conform than to resist the pressures or challenge the values of a group.

A great deal of the current prejudice in our country is explained by this simple human need to conform. But this is not the whole story. Some people are prejudiced, not out of a need to be loved by their group, but out of a deep and desperate need to hate someone else. The hostility of these people has become an essential part of their personality. They even attack those who don't hate as they do.

## Brotherhood Youth Camp

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school girls and boys of many different racial, religious and ethnic groups from 11 different states, including a few Southern states.

The conference will be led and staffed by trained adults from the National Conference of Christians and Jews regional offices and other human relations and community organizations. Invited experts serve as speakers and resource persons to supplement the resident staff. College students, who have had some camp experiences, serve as counsellors.

The Staff will be headed by Howard Devaney, Co-ordinator; Walter D. Chambers, Asst. Director, Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and Asst. Co-ordinator of the Camp. The Co-directors are William Scholl, New Jersey Region, National Conference of Christians and Jews; Ralph King, Philadel-

## SELECTED READING

Bunker, Robert & Adair, John. *The First Look at Strangers*. 1959 Rutgers University Press.

"Some young scholars learned in the United States among people of different cultures (Indian and Spanish-American communities) what it is like to be an American in an alien land. They were able to form approaches and techniques that will enable anybody to communicate more easily with people of different backgrounds, languages and cultures."

## LOCAL CITIZENS ORGANIZE AID

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rendered by Lillian Hayman. Approximately 2,500 attended this affair and \$3,300 was netted from the appeal made by Samuel Haynes.

In succeeding meetings it was decided that AID "should direct its future activities not only toward the struggle for freedom in the South, but for positive cooperative action in the many areas of discrimination and injustices in our own communities". To map out some plans and approaches for achieving this end, the organization has scheduled an out-door discussion on Saturday, July 30, 1 p.m. at the home of James Pawley of the Essex County Urban League, 53 Franklin Place, Montclair. All individuals and organizations working with AID are urged to attend this important meeting. Make reservations by calling Connie Woodruff, Secretary of AID at MA 3-1731 or Betty Deane, MA 3-0745.

Elected officers of AID are: Mrs. Irving Rosenberg, Chairman; Rev. Homer J. Tucker and Martin L. Erwin, Co-chairmen; Rev. J. Sanford Lonsinger, Treasurer and Mrs. Constance Woodruff, Secretary. A steering Committee of organizational representatives also serves.

Inquiries about the function and operation of AID may be directed to 10 Hill Street, Newark 2, N. J.

phia-South Jersey, NCCJ and Donald Lombardi, Maryland Region, NCCJ.

The Camp site is located at the New Jersey State School of Conservation which is in Stokes State Forest, bordering on Lake Wapalanne in the Kittatinny Mountains. The facilities at the School of Conservation are among the best.

When the buses return to Newark on September 2nd they will bring back 140 young people who have made many new friends, gained greater knowledge and insights and participated in a unique experience for persons of all ages.

